

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****5 METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BUILDING COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING NETWORKS VIA COMPUTER COST SUBSIDIZATION**

A method and apparatus for distributed computing in  
10 a network data processing system. A task is accepted for  
distributed computing. Work units are sent to a  
plurality of data processing systems on a network,  
wherein each data processing system within the plurality  
of data processing systems includes a software for  
15 accepting a work unit, processing the work unit to  
generate a result, and returning the result, wherein the  
software is monitored for compliance with an operation  
policy requiring a connection to the network and  
allocating a period of time for processing work units.  
20 Results are received from the plurality of data  
processing systems. These data processing systems may be  
individually owned by consumers in which the systems are  
provided at no cost or some lower cost in return for  
making available processing resources for processing work  
25 units.

DRAFT-25-OCT-00